

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL

REPORT

JULY 1, 1955 - JUNE 30, 1956

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL

JULY 1, 1955 - - - JUNE 30, 1956

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE:

The report of the Division of Livestock Disease Control for the fiscal year, July 1, 1955, to June 30, 1956, inclusive, is herewith submitted.

Throughout the year, the Division has carried out the provisions of the disease control programs to the best of its ability.

Early in 1956, a bill to repeal the garbage cooking law was introduced into the Legislature and passed both branches but later was vetoed by the Governor. During this period of uncertainty in regard to this law, the Division was handicapped in its enforcement. Since the veto of the repeal by the Governor, however, two cases have been brought into court and won.

The Brucellosis program has been very well received by the dairy farmers of the Commonwealth and with the allocation of \$200,000 by the Federal government, this program has grown by leaps and bounds. On February 1, 1956, there were approximately 173 certified herds in the Commonwealth. On June 30, 1956 there were approximately 386 certified herds.

Many meetings of the Livestock organizations of the Commonwealth were attended and addressed by the Director. The meetings of small veterinary groups have also been organized and encouraged where they would get together and talk over mutual problems. Public relations with this profession have been improved immeasurably and this type of meeting will be continued.

One of the aims of this Division, this fiscal year, has been to assign the tuberculin testing and brucellosis work so that they would be done during the months when the cows were stabled. It will take about another year before this program will become a reality.

The cooperation between the United States Department of Agriculture and this Division is on a very high level.

Dr. A. F. Ranney of the Washington staff and Dr. E. R. Coon and Dr. W. C. Ferrall of the Federal Bureau here in Boston have been very cooperative in all our disease eradication and control programs.

Again there was a mild outbreak of encephalomyelitis or sleeping sickness in horses. Forty-three horses were afflicted with this dread disease. For the first time this disease was found in pheasant flocks on several premises.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Chapter 319, Section 33, General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, as amended by Chapter 272, Acts of 1934 and Chapter 417, Acts of 1946, and amendments thereto.

There were nine thousand one hundred seventy-eight (9,178) tuberculin herd tests, one hundred eighty-five thousand and three (185,003) animal tests applied to which ninety-six (96) head of cattle or 5/100 of 1% were declared reactors, as compared with ten thousand five hundred fifty-two (10,552) tuberculin herd tests, and one hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred (193,200) animal tests applied the previous fiscal year to which sixty-two (62) head of cattle or 3/100 of 1% reacted.

Sixty-six (66) or 68% of the ninety-six (96) cattle declared to be reactors were reported as having "no visible" lesions of tuberculosis at time of slaughter.

One thousand one hundred and two (1,102) herds containing eight thousand five hundred fifty-five (8,555) head of cattle, included in the census report of June 30, 1955, were disposed of by owners prior to the census for the period ending June 30, 1956.

Three hundred and eighty-two (382) herds in which testing has not previously been conducted and containing two thousand three hundred thirty-four (2,334) head of cattle recorded in the following tables as "first tests", are included in the census report for the period ending June 30, 1956.

Tuberculin tests are conducted by State and Federal accredited veterinarians under a State and Federal Cooperative Plan for the establishment of tuberculosis-free herds and the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

Following is a summary of tuberculin tests as made by veterinarians for the twelve month period of this report.

	<u>Herds</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Reactors</u>
Veterinarians paid by the State on a salary basis	2,233	40,971	15
Veterinarians paid by the Federal Government on a salary basis	137	2,250	
Program veterinarians paid by State or Federal Government	6,751	138,469	81
Veterinarians authorized at request of and paid by the owners	57	3,313	
	<u>9,178</u>	<u>185,003</u>	<u>96</u>

TUBERCULIN TESTING BY MONTHS

	FIRST TESTS												RETESTS												TOTAL				
	CLEAN				WITH REACTORS								CLEAN				WITH REACTORS												
	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Pb	Gd	R	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Pb	Gd	R	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	R		
1955-1956																													
July	28	37	65	102								258	447	2109	2556								286	484	2174	2658			
August	10		37	37								260	536	2597	3133								270	536	2634	3170			
September	16	14	74	88								155	130	2142	2272	2		114	114			2	2	173	144	2330	2474	2	
October	13	6	54	60								569	817	7392	8209								582	823	7446	8269			
November	22	7	158	165								799	3679	14124	17803	5		240	240	1	14	15	826	3686	14522	18208	15		
December	31	6	176	182								878	2851	17229	20080	6	7	204	211	1	29	30	915	2864	17609	20473	30		
January	18	10	135	145								1096	4881	22194	27075	8	123	250	373	1	12	13	1122	5014	22579	27593	13		
February	51	6	281	287								1632	5385	28851	34236	14	45	566	611	2	18	20	1697	5436	29698	35734	20		
March	73	57	441	498								1339	5630	24356	29386	4	5	196	201	2	6	8	1416	5092	24993	30085	8		
April	70	41	389	430								1182	4529	18818	23347	1	63	16	73		2	2	1253	4633	19217	23850	2		
May	43	11	305	316								532	2142	9030	11172	5	2	145	147		6	6	580	2155	9480	11635	6		
June	7		24	24								51	197	1233	1430								58	197	1257	1454			
	382	195	2139	2334								8751	30624	150075	180699	45	245	1725	1970	7	89	96	9178	31064	153939	185003	96		

TUBERCULIN TESTING BY COUNTIES

	FIRST TESTS										RETESTS										TOTAL						
	CLEAN				WITH REACTORS						CLEAN				WITH REACTORS												
1955-1956	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Pb	Gd	R	Hvds	Pb	Gd	Total	Hvd	Pb	Gd	Total	Pb	Gd	R	Hvds	Pb	Gd	Total	R
Barnstable	3		5	5								56	72	567	639								59	72	572	644	
Berkshire	40	5	178	183								863	4193	17453	21646	9	189	334	523	2	11	13	912	4387	17965	22352	13
Bristol	24	35	130	165								804	2898	16306	19204	8		329	329	22	22		836	2933	16765	19698	22
Dukes	3		4	4								58	140	402	542								61	140	406	546	
Essex	19	5	107	112								509	4166	8436	12602	2		63	63	2	2		530	4171	8606	12777	2
Franklin	44	13	233	246								1155	2256	19778	22034	4		102	102	4	4		1203	2269	20113	22382	4
Hampden	59	50	303	353								913	2064	9460	11524								972	2114	9763	11877	
Hampshire	23	16	179	195								892	2967	15748	18715								915	2983	15927	18910	
Middlesex	33	19	99	118								704	2691	11404	14095	2		64	64	2	2		739	2710	11567	14277	2
Nantucket	1		2	2								11	65	51	116								12	65	53	118	
Norfolk	15	14	43	57								349	1749	5172	6921	2	6	33	39	2	2		366	1769	5248	7017	2
Plymouth	29	12	125	137								536	1762	8574	10336	5		202	202	5	5		570	1774	8901	10675	5
Suffolk												2	84	4	88								2	84	4	88	
Worcester	89	26	731	757								1899	5517	36720	42237	13	50	598	648	4	42	46	2001	5593	38049	43642	46
	382	195	2139	2334								8751	30624	150075	180699	45	245	1725	1970	6	90	96	9178	31064	153939	185003	96

COUNTY CENSUS AND INFECTION

as of

(JUNE 30, 1956)

								*	
County	Herds	Head	Herds	Infection		Three Head or Less			
				Head	Reactors	Herds	Head		
Barnstable	81	627				58	102		
Berkshire	1,025	22,052				359	716		
Bristol	925	17,827	1	33	1	322	597		
Dukes	62	579				32	58		
Essex	560	12,345				196	366		
Franklin	1,188	22,134	1	18	1	311	618		
Hampden	794	11,035				293	554		
Hampshire	1,023	18,928				317	632		
Middlesex	863	14,475				347	632		
Nantucket	12	118				6	13		
Norfolk	368	6,545				143	268		
Plymouth	581	9,640	1	22	1	266	478		
Suffolk	2	88							
Worcester	2,158	42,185				666	1,268		
Total	9,642	178,578	3	73	3	3,316	6,302		

* Included in columns 2 and 3

APPRAISALS

	PUREBREDS			GRADES			TOTAL		
	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE
July '55									
August									
September				2	\$400.00	\$200.00	2	\$400.00	\$200.00
October									
November	1	\$225.00	\$225.00	14	2,800.00	200.00	15	3,025.00	201.67
December	1	275.00	275.00	30	6,095.00	203.17	31	6,370.00	205.48
January '56	1	250.00	250.00	12	3,015.00	251.25	13	3,265.00	251.14
February	1	425.00	425.00	19	4,215.00	221.84	20	4,640.00	232.00
March	2	600.00	300.00	6	1,605.00	267.50	8	2,205.00	275.63
April	2	850.00	425.00				2	850.00	425.00
May				6	1,565.00	260.83	6	1,565.00	260.83
June									
	8	\$2,625.00	\$328.13	89	\$19,695.00	\$221.30	97	\$22,320.00	\$230.10

SALVAGE

	PUREBREDS			GRADES			TOTAL		
	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE
July '55									
August									
September				2	\$147.95	\$73.98	2	\$147.95	\$73.98
October									
November	1	\$108.35	\$108.35	14	1,329.58	94.97	15	1,437.93	95.86
December	1	120.95	120.95	30	2,457.05	81.90	31	2,578.00	83.16
January '56	1	101.31	101.31	12	1,264.56	105.38	13	1,365.87	105.07
February	1	156.18	156.18	19	2,746.83	144.57	20	2,903.01	145.15
March	2	170.10	85.05	6	607.35	121.47	8	777.45	111.08
April	2	210.00	105.00				2	210.00	105.00
May				6	662.50	110.42	6	662.50	110.42
June									
	8	\$866.89	\$108.36	89	\$9,215.82	\$103.55	97	\$10,082.71	\$103.95

INDEMNITY

	PUREBREDS			GRADES			TOTAL		
	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HEAD	AMOUNT	AVERAGE
July '55									
August									
September				2	\$163.03	\$84.02	2	\$163.03	\$84.02
October									
November	1	-	-	14	980.23	70.02	15	980.23	65.35
December	1	102.70	102.70	30	2,425.23	80.84	31	2,527.93	81.55
January '56	1	99.13	99.13	12	1,166.95	97.24	13	1,266.08	97.39
February	1	179.21	179.21	19	1,516.78	79.83	20	1,695.99	84.80
March	2	286.60	143.30	6	365.10	113.02	8	351.70	106.46
April	2	426.66	213.33				2	426.66	213.33
May				6	601.66	100.28	6	601.66	100.28
June									
	8	\$1,094.30	\$136.78	89	\$7,424.08	\$83.41	97	\$8,518.38	\$87.81

QUARANTINE STATION AT BRIGHTON

Dairy Cattle:

	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Released on Papers</u>	<u>Released after Test</u>	<u>Permit to Kill</u>	<u>Returned to Owner</u>
Maine	287	287	-	-	-
New Hampshire	96	96	-	-	-
Vermont	3	3	-	-	-
	<u>386</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>386</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Of the three hundred eighty-six (386) cattle received and released one hundred six (106) were reshipped to Rhode Island and two hundred eighty (280) remained in Massachusetts.

DISEASED CATTLE RECEIVED AND RELEASED FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER:

	<u>T. B. Reactors</u>	<u>From Quarantined Herds</u>	<u>Bang's Disease Reactors</u>
Maine	-	-	-
Massachusetts	69	112	325
New Hampshire	-	-	-
Rhode Island	-	-3	-
Vermont	-	2	-
	<u>69</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>325</u>

Dairy cattle were restricted to special yards that have been cleaned and disinfected regularly.

All trucks carrying tuberculin and Bang's disease reactors have been cleaned and disinfected before leaving the yards.

Total number of livestock received at this station was as follows:

Cattle	-	63,660	Sheep	-	4,123
Calves	-	93,381	Swine	-	45,117

GOATS

This Division will arrange for the tuberculin testing and blood testing of goats provided the owner signs an agreement to the effect that any goats declared as reactors to either test will be immediately disposed of for slaughter with no compensation allowed by the Commonwealth.

Eighteen goats were tuberculin tested and fourteen blood tested on three premises. No reactors were found to either test.

INTERSTATE RECEIPTS OF CATTLE

Three thousand three hundred eighty-nine (3,389) permits were issued covering eighteen thousand eight hundred sixteen (18,816) head of dairy and breeding cattle.

Three hundred eighty-six (386) dairy cattle were received at the Brighton Quarantine Station, making a total of nineteen thousand two hundred two (19,302) dairy and breeding cattle received from outside the Commonwealth.

DAIRY CATTLE

	<u>On</u> <u>Permit</u>	<u>At</u> <u>Brighton</u>
Canada	4,491	
Connecticut	1,057	
Florida	1	
Kentucky	6	
Maine	1,698	287
Maryland	9	
Michigan	68	
Minnesota	28	
Missouri	1	
New Hampshire	1,067	96
New Jersey	37	
New York	2,697	
Ohio	38	
Oklahoma	1	
Oregon	2	
Pennsylvania	10	
Rhode Island	262	
South Carolina	8	
Texas	6	
Virginia	2	
Vermont	7,080	3
Wisconsin	247	
	18,816	286

EXPORTS

Interstate certificates of health were issued on four thousand seventeen (4,017) head of cattle and seven (7) goats exported to other States and Countries as follows:

<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
Canada	4	New Jersey	42
Central America	1	New York	1,698
Colorado	3	Ohio	10
Connecticut	420	Oklahoma	1
Cuba	47	Oregon	5
Florida	49	Pennsylvania	14
Illinois	4	Rhode Island	756
India	1	South Carolina	12
Indiana	3	Tennessee	1
Kansas	1	Texas	2
Kentucky	6	Utah	1
Louisiana	1	Vermont	402
Maine	141	Virginia	1
Maryland	8	Washington	2
Michigan	2	West Indies	9
Minnesota	5	Wisconsin	8
Missouri	12	South America	46
New Hampshire	299		
		TOTAL	4,017

Six goats were shipped to Florida

One goat was shipped to India

BRUCELLOSIS

Blood vials for collecting samples and laboratory examination of the samples are furnished without charge to owners of cattle.

Following is a tabulation of the results of laboratory examination of the blood samples from cattle, and also from goats and swine.

	NEGATIVE	REACTORS*	SUSPICIOUS*	OTHER HEMOLYZED**	TOTAL
CATTLE	61,445	1,045	3,946	678	67,114
GOATS	69			1	70
SWINE	15		1		16
	61,529	1,045	3,947	679	67,200

* Includes bloods from vaccinated cattle..

** Containers broken, insufficient amount of blood, or hemolyzed.

CERTIFIED HERDS:

(June 30, 1956)

Certified Bang's Disease-Free Herds 386

Cattle in certified Bang's Disease-Free Herds 11,722

CALFHOOD VACCINATION

(by months)

	Salaried Agents		Federal Agents		Program Agents		Dollar Agents		Private Agents		TOTALS	
	Herds	Head	Herds	Head	Herds	Head	Herds	Head	Herds	Head	Herds	Head
1955												
July	32	50	16	28	349	1,025			25	96	422	1,199
August	43	73			320	953	1	2	31	85	395	1,113
September	48	84	1	1	261	732			16	43	326	860
October	83	180	4	27	424	1,156			45	184	556	1,547
November	88	209	24	67	180	413	198	652	29	101	519	1,442
December	77	218	6	10	311	730	191	545	17	61	602	1,564
1956												
January	97	240	4	11	335	852	183	510	9	28	628	1,641
February	50	107	14	37	755	2,051			6	14	825	2,209
March	48	133	1	2	706	2,022			9	36	764	2,193
April	55	132			573	1,494			11	25	639	1,651
May	23	70	1	4	504	1,428			7	22	535	1,524
June	4	7			305	855			6	21	315	883
TOTALS	648	1,503	71	187	5,023	13,711	573	1,709	211	716	6,526	17,826

CALFHOOD VACCINATION

(by counties)

County	Herds	Head
Barnstable	42	90
Berkshire	898	2,730
Bristol	408	1,110
Dukes	37	82
Essex	376	1,147
Franklin	1,046	2,727
Hampden	551	1,307
Hampshire	774	2,158
Middlesex	507	1,255
Nantucket	6	18
Norfolk	178	456
Plymouth	275	816
Suffolk	3	10
Worcester	1,425	3,920
Total	6,526	17,826

PERMITS TO FEED COOKED GARBAGE TO SWINE

Five hundred forty-five (545) permits to feed garbage to swine were issued.

LICENSED DEALERS IN BOVINE ANIMALS

During the fiscal year there were three hundred forty-(340) licenses issued to dealers in dairy and Beef cattle, and three hundred eighty-eight (388) plates sent out for use on the trucks operated by these dealers.

A total of fifteen thousand two hundred ninety-five (15,295) dairy cattle and one thousand nine hundred nine (1,909) beef cattle were reported by licensed dealers as purchased and sold.

RABIES

Under Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations (Chapter 111, General Laws as amended by Chapter 265, Acts of 1938) Sections 6 and 7 "Dog Bite" is declared a disease dangerous to public health.

Order No. 34, Section 3 of the Division of Livestock Disease Control regulations reads: "All dogs known to have bitten persons shall be quarantined for a period of fourteen (14) days for observation, at the end of which period if no symptoms of rabies have developed said animals may be released from quarantine on order of the Director."

Investigation of reported injuries inflicted to persons by biting of dogs and the quarantining of such dogs is one of the duties of the Inspector of Animals.

The following tabulation includes injuries reported inflicted by dogs and other animals:

RABIES

Showing Symptoms			Contacts				Bite Cases				Total
Positive	Negative	Questionable	Released Contacts	Killed or died No Symptoms	Killed or Died Positive	Pending	Released Quarantined Animals	Killed No Examination	Killed Negative	Pending	
Brought Forward											
July 1955							815	6	13		
August							1236	4	16		
September							1028	7	11		
October							995	5	16		
November							927	1	9		
December							565	1	11		
January 1956							445	1	12		
February							555	3	10		
March							631	1	15		
April							729	6	20		
May							1303	1	23		
June							1643	5	20		
Forward							795			757	
Total							11,667	41	176	757	12,641
<u>ANIMALS INVOLVED</u>											
Dogs							11,609		125	753	
Cats							48		28	4	
Rabbits							2		1		
Chipmunk							1		2		
Horse							1				
Opossum							1				
Raccoon							1				
Hamster							1		1		
Monkeys							3		1		
Squirrels									9		
Mouse									1		
Foxes									3		
Muskrats									2		
Skunks									2		
Rat									1		
							11,667	41	176	757	12,641

Eleven thousand nine hundred and four (11, 904) persons were bitten by dogs and other animals. One thousand two hundred fifty-two (1,252) persons were bitten by stray animals, and one hundred fifty-seven (157) bitten by animals the brains of which were examined at the laboratory.

The heads of 125 dogs, (125) twenty-eight (28) cats, nine (9) squirrels, three (3) foxes, two (2) muskrats, two (2) chipmunks, one (1) mouse, one (1) rat, one (1) hamster, one (1) rabbit, and one (1) monkey, were received at the laboratory for examination, all of which were reported as negative.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF NEAT CATTLE, SHEEP AND SWINE

In accordance with Section 19, Chapter 129 of the General Laws, the annual inspection of neat cattle, sheep and swine and of the premises where kept was completed.

Reports received from the cities and towns showed that inspection indicated the following information:

COUNTY	HERDS	NEAT CATTLE	HORSES	SWINE		SHEEP	GOATS
				HERDS	HEAD		
Barnstable	74	577	195	18	341	387	79
Berkshire	961	21,693	805	130	1,224	843	323
Bristol	942	17,884	697	152	11,323	1,287	252
Dukes	66	495	76	11	25	1,569	34
Essex	556	11,886	769	121	12,787	966	327
Franklin	1,139	21,592	709	211	1,486	755	152
Hampden	716	10,555	426	91	3,035	582	127
Hampshire	1,018	18,593	697	182	3,660	1,246	145
Middlesex	807	13,957	1,287	177	28,252	960	264
Nantucket	12	104	2	-	-	23	-
Norfolk	366	6,776	914	74	4,806	556	156
Plymouth	589	10,079	777	98	9,409	1,662	371
Suffolk	2	77	159	4	1,060	-	3
Worcester	2,169	41,862	1,320	222	13,760	1,953	530
TOTAL	9,417	176,130	8,833	1,491	91,168	12,789	2,763

Of the total number of cattle inspected one hundred forty-five thousand four hundred three (145,403) were listed as dairy cows, one thousand one hundred fifty-eight (1,158) were listed as purebred bulls, and twenty-four thousand twenty-nine (24,029) as purebred cows.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

ACTINOMYCOSIS: This disease was reported in three cattle on three premises. All animals affected were slaughtered.

BLACKLEG AND MALIGNANT EDEMA: Preventive treatment was administered to two thousand one hundred seventy-four (2,174) cattle on 167 premises. One case of blackleg was reported; two heifers died and the remainder were vaccinated. A case of malignant edema was reported in forty (40) Herefords. The animal was dead when the veterinarian arrived. The balance of the herd was vaccinated.

ENCEPHALOMYELITIS: Forty-three (43) horses on 41 premises were reported as affected with equine encephalomyelitis. The disease was also reported for the first time in pheasant flocks. Three cases on three different farms were reported direct to this Division. Three additional cases on three different farms were reported and confirmed by the University of Massachusetts, as well as a number of cases in pheasants collected in the field.

HOG CHOLERA: This disease was reported on three premises.

LISTERELLOSIS (CIRCLING DISEASE): One goat was reported as affected and was destroyed.

MANGE: This disease was reported in thirteen (13) cattle on five premises. These cattle were quarantined. Twelve (12) recovered and were released and one (1) animal was slaughtered.

PSITTACOSIS: This disease was reported in a parakeet bought from a local store and was later confirmed by laboratory diagnosis. All birds in the store were quarantined and later shipped to the University of Texas for medical purposes (31 Parakeets and 6 Canaries).

RINGWORM: This disease was reported in cattle on four premises. The animals were quarantined and released upon recovery.

Regional meetings of Inspectors of Animals were held in the month of November in Boston, Greenfield, Segregansett (Dighton) Pittsfield, Springfield and Worcester.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTOR N. CLUFF,
DIRECTOR